



23 November 2020

(20-8429)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: French

**APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)**

COMMUNICATION FROM MOROCCO

The following communication, received on 13 November 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Morocco.

Further to the application for observer status in the SPS Committee, dated 13 October 2020, from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) ([G/SPS/GEN/121/Add.18](#)), Morocco is issuing the following statement:

1. I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to share Morocco's position on UNIDO's application for observer status in the WTO SPS Committee.
2. UNIDO is a longstanding partner of Morocco's. We have benefited from its technical expertise in areas related to food safety and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, for example, under the Project for Market Access of Products of Terroir (PAMPAT) and the Arab Food Safety Initiative for Trade Facilitation (also known as SAFE) for the Arab region. The management of these projects has shown UNIDO's added value in terms of capacity-building on food safety in Morocco. UNIDO's admission as an observer in the WTO SPS Committee will enable it to become apprised of the topics discussed by Members and to submit suitable SPS proposals focused on local, regional and international partnerships.
3. By way of illustration, under SAFE, the competent SPS authority in Morocco, the National Office for Food Safety (ONSSA), has played an active role in the network established as part of the Arab Task Force on Food Safety. In addition, under SAFE, ONSSA inspectors, along with several Arab countries, have taken part in several technical training courses, including a one-year multidisciplinary training course on SPS risk assessment. The organization of such activities provides Middle Eastern and North African countries with an opportunity to share good scientific practices relating to risk analysis, one of the important pillars of the SPS Agreement.
4. The Kingdom of Morocco values UNIDO's technical expertise and supports its admission as an observer in the SPS Committee.